

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALGAR 00120 231545Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /078 W

-----231548Z 057259 /50

R 222250Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1946

INFO AMEMBASSY PRIORITY

UNCLAS CALGARY 0120

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: GOC MOVES TO DEFUSE NWT POLITICAL ISSUES

1. WELL PLACED NWT SOURCE TOLD CONGEN MARCH 21 THAT RECENTLY ARTICULATED DEMAND OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL FOR MAJOR INQUIRY INTO THE TERRITORIES' POLITICAL FUTURE HAD BEEN SET ASIDE DUE TO GOVERNMENT DECISION TO APPOINT CABINET LEVEL OFFICIAL TO LOOK INTO QUESTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. PERSONS RUMORED AS CANDIDATES FOR THIS POSITION ARE MITCHELL SHARP, BUD DRURY, AND JAKE WARREN.

2. NWT COUNCIL HAS BEEN CONCERNED THAT NATIVE LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS WOULD BRING ABOUT A BALKINIZATION OF THE NWT,

AND IT HAS BEEN PRESSING NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER ALLMAND HARD FOR APPROVAL OF DOLS 1.7 MILLION INQUIRY WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR A UNIFIED NWT. IN PUSHING THIS CAUSE, TERRITORIAL COUNCILLORS HAD BEEN THREATENING TO EMBARRASS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BY WITHHOLDING APPROVAL OF 1977-78 TERRITORIAL BUDGET, HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MAYOR OF INUVIK THAT THIS COURSE OF ACTION IS NO LONGER CONTEMPLATED, SINCE AGREEMENT TO

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APPOINT CABINET LEVEL OFFICIAL HAS LARGELY ALLAYED FEARS OF NWT RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO PRESERVE TERRITORIAL UNITY. INUVIK MAYOR ALSO TOLD REPORTING OFFICER THAT NATIVE GROUPS HAD BEEN TOLD TO LIMIT THEIR CLAIMS SETTLEMENT SUBMISSIONS STRICTLY TO ECONOMIC MATTERS, SINCE THE GOC WOULD NOT BE GIVING CONSIDERATION TO ASSERTIONS OF POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CALGAR00120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770099-0849
Format: TEL
From: CALGARY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770336/aaaabfrr.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8cf734b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3039414
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC MOVES TO DEFUSE NWT POLITICAL ISSUES
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8cf734b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009